

## THE NATIONAL FORUM

VOL. I. NO. 14.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1910.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

## THE ELKS IN VANITY FAIR

The I. B. P. O. E. W. Convention  
CONDUCTED BY JOHN H. WILLS.

## THE GATHERING OF THE CLANS.

The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks are a distinctive lot of men. Though called from every walk of life, there is an abiding spirit which animates and actuates all of them. For the most part they are young men and their attitude toward life and their purposes individually are remarkably similar in kind. They met in Washington, D. C., July 26th, to hold their Eleventh Annual Convention, which was in many respects the most important gathering in the history of the order.

The advance guard arrived on Sunday and by midnight there was quite a fair number mingling freely and easily in our city life as though they had sojourneered here "for these many years." Now why I say this was an important meeting is because the future of the body depends in a great measure upon the outcome of this gathering, for here will be accepted or rejected the terms of the

## PEACE CONFERENCE.

This conference met in obedience to the call of G. E. R., Dr. William E. Atkins and G. E. R., Dr. James E. Mills on January 22, 1910, at Wilmington, Del., in the lodge room of the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Lodge. At this conference, which was presided over by Attorney J. Frank Wheaton, of New York city, it was agreed to call off the annual sessions of the two Grand Lodges, which were to have met in Norfolk and Brooklyn, respectively, and to meet in a special session at Washington, D. C., July 26 to 29, and there to ratify the action of this conference and to perfect a union of the two Grand Lodges.

It would seem that the two Grand Lodges, after about six months' time to consider this proposition, would have decided positively that the hope and success of the Elks can only be found in union in action and spirit.

## THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY TOOK THE TOWN.

By reason of the very excellent arrangements and services of the committee on comfort, under the efficient direction of Dr. H. J. Williams, assisted ably by Walter F. Honesty and others, every delegate and visitor was readily placed in quarters of comfort so that none were lost, strayed or stolen. Everybody appeared to be happy and content. We heard no hammer rung on the anvil and for once satisfaction settled down in this vale of sorrow.

After much and many sayings of "Hello, Bill!" and shaking of hands and thumps and slapping on shoulders, after the manner of men in gay and friendly mood, the Elks gathered at True Reformers' Hall in public session, which was very pleasingly and gracefully carried through.

## THE GRAND STREET PARADE.

Morning Star, No. 40, assembled in front of their headquarters, over the Maceo Theater, and I may be pardoned for pausing to say that they have a fine suite of rooms there and entertained their visitors, friends, members and also the ladies with a hospitality of knightly grace and courtesy. The Columbia Lodge, No. 85, formed in front of Odd Fellows' Hall, where they had headquarters, and welcomed and cheered friends and visitors with that hearty good fellowship which is a spiritual force in the heart of every man of them. Finally, having assembled at and near True Reformers' Hall, the parade started, marching to the inspiring strains of much good music.

The two local lodges, Morning Star, No. 40, and Columbia, No. 85, were dressed in conventional afternoon garb—frock coat, white vest, black trousers, silk hat and chamois gloves. They were quite elegant and, though the day was a bit warm for that sort of dress, each of the lodges to a man looked and acted the part of high-class gentlemen, which they are all beyond doubt.

The striking contrast was Baltimore Lodge, Monumental, No. 3, in white flannel suits with a tiny stripe, white shoes and straw hats. Their handling of the American flag was clever and their drill was unique and interesting, particularly in front of the capital, and the ladies, who followed after them in carriages, were too cute for anything in their jaunty white felt hats.

Phoenix, No. 27, of Paris, Ky., were all admirals and commodores and naval dignitaries in regulation dress uniforms of white duck, with caps the same. They made a very fine showing and looked so cool that the thermometer dropped a foot or more.

Alphonse Crepaud, the French gentleman who was with me, exclaimed as Buckeye, No. 73, drove by in English hunting coach and drag: "La piece de resistance!" or some such kindred words. They did certainly look the distinguished part. They brought their coaches and blooded stock with them and we had the honor of viewing them the first time in action since they were imported from London.

It was Bradford, Pa., Lodge, No. 156, I think (if I am wrong correct me, please), who wore the purple and white parasols with such grace and distinction. This clever handling of these won much applause.

As to the different bands they were attuned to exquisite melody. The First National, of this city; the Metropolitan Band, of Baltimore; the Commonwealth Band, of Baltimore; and the Monumental, of this city, vied with each other for a superiority which they all possessed in common.

## THERE HE IS!

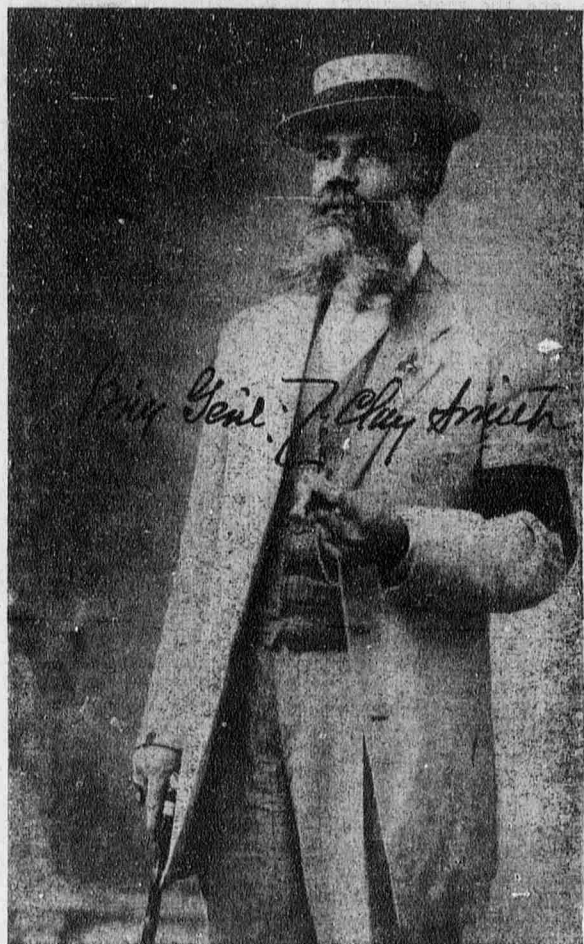
As the carriages were passing Iowa Circle someone pointed to a Johnson-like looking individual and cried out "There's Jack Johnson!" and the crowd flew from all points—black, white, old and young—to get a view of the counterfeit president of the champion.

The parade reached the capital in good order and it is truly remarkable that the men who marched should be so fresh and strong, considering the heat of the day.

The group formed upon the steps leading up into the rotunda of the capitol was racially characteristic and typified our diversity of excellent men and women in a very pronounced manner. The

ored people of this country must unite for conservation of their forces both in action and restraint. We need more men like that.

Hon. Judson W. Lyons, of Augusta, Ga., visited the city with the Elks. Mr. Lyons is the picture of health and shows by his manner and bearing that "peace also hath victories."



Brig Gen. J. Clay Smith, Secretary of the United Committee on Entertainment of Lodges.

sun was just right and the light was good and the photographer, Mr. J. Addison Turner, with his usual artistic skill, made a very pleasing picture of the group they gathered. It is a privilege not often accorded to everybody to group upon these steps for photographic purposes and the fact that the Elks were fortunate to get that privilege shows their influence in this community.

## SOME ELKS I HAVE MET.

Dr. Preston M. Edwards, of Hartford, Conn., is a typical New England professional man, alert, polished and courtly in manner, one of the most interesting men it has been my pleasure to meet.

HON. THOMAS KENNEDY,  
of Zanesville, Ohio.

A prominent Elk Editor and owner of the Zanesville Advocate, and who holds an important position in the Water Works Office of this city.

Oliver E. Robinson, of Rochester, is a typical newspaper man, breezy, entertaining and up-to-date. In the parade he looked like a real Arabian pasha fresh from the sandy deserts and the palms and pomegranates. Mr. Robinson is doing good work on the Rochester Sentinel, a very fine, progressive journal.

William Payton, of Norfolk, Va., is a man of engaging personality and pleasant manners, and optimistic regarding our ability to work out our salvation as a race. He is sure we will arrive. L. Livingstone Minor, of Pittsburgh, is one whom nature has marked for distinction; he is inspiring, bold and progressive. He says the Elks have grown to 150,000 in fifteen years and with union will be the greatest social force for good working within our race. He thinks the next convention should overlook the Jim Crow spirit and go south as an example and inspiration to our people there.

Dr. Barnett, of Huntington, W. Va., says the Elks are alive to their opportunities in his town. They have a very fine club there, he says. Dr. Barnett is spoken of as a very skillful physician.

J. R. Pollard, the lawyer of Richmond, Va., is a financier of high degree and looks the part. He says there are four banks in Richmond conducted by colored people and they are all prosperous.

Joseph N. Hawkins, but you'd never know him other than "Jodie," our esteemed fellow citizen, looks the picture of happy prosperity. Jodie is located in Albany and from his looks he must be the mayor of the town.

Dr. Merwyn R. Bibb, of Chicago, is a breathing example of the western spirit—large, cheerful and active—a splendid type of the westerner our race is producing. By the way, Doctor, I think that joke's "too good to tell."

Dr. Owen Meredith Waller, while we are with the doctors, seems to have broadened and filled out both mentally and physically since he left us. Dr. Waller enjoys a pleasing success as a practicing physician in Brooklyn, N. Y. Oscar Coe and P. H. Williams, of Bradford, Pa., two young men thoroughly alive to the trend of events and anxious that the two factions of the Elks should lay aside all differences and become one body, both said that the col-

J. T. Taylor, of Richmond, Va., looks like an ideal banker. He is connected with the Mechanics' Savings Bank of that city.

Mike Meyers, of Bradford, Pa., should receive a medal. He has organized six lodges of Elks. He thinks Pittsburgh should have the next convention.

Frank Wheaton, the lawyer of New York, is a splendid specimen of manhood and shows very decidedly our racial possibilities. Mr. Wheaton looks the perfect athlete—so much so that someone asked me if that wasn't "Cotton Jack Johnson's sparring partner?"

A. J. Enty, of Bradford, Pa., enjoyed life here more than anyone else. I doubt not, and it is to him I owe the proud honor and grand distinction of meeting his hand on reforming the Democratic party.

James S. Williams and O. R. Cassell, both of New York city, were inseparable while here as far as I could judge and seemed a fine example of that friendship which men form for each other. One looks like a poet and the other like a stock broker of Broad street. I leave it to you to guess the which.

Our old neighbor, Phil Newton, was among the Pittsburgh Elks and brought along some of his new home's smoke. Prosperity and happiness is stamped all over Phil.

Dr. Bowen, of Norfolk, Va., was pilot of a lot of his brethren down the avenue, when they stopped to wait for Piggy Harrison, of the same burg. They got on a car at Twelfth street and by the time they reached Eleventh street a large load of hay fell across the track. Some of that party looked as though they needed any hay. Piggy was christened James.



HON. B. L. GASKINS

Chairman of the United Committee on Entertainment of Lodges, whose work has done much toward making a success of the meeting.

## NOTES AND COMMENT.

The latest news of July 26, evening edition, says: "The parade today of the colored Elks, who have been holding a convention in this city, reflected credit on the entire race. The men and women, of whom there were several thousand in line, made a splendid appearance and were the subject of much praise by both races."

This is very true and all along the line of march and at the capital the same

## The Eleventh Annual Session of the I. B. P. O. E. of W. Held In the True Reformers Hall.

LARGE ASSEMBLAGE OF DELEGATES.

Harmony and Unification The Watchword--Greatest Session In The History Of The Order.

The Independent Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World held their Eleventh Annual Session in this city this past week. The city at the seat of the nation's capital has been entertaining these jolly good fellows for the past five days, and it has no regrets to offer. Every colored business place, as well as practically every home has been open to them and they have received a cordial welcome wherever they have gone. The Grand Lodge opened its session on Tuesday at noon. Hon. B. L. Gaskins, chairman of the United Committees, after a short but appropriate address, introduced to the audience Hon. W. C. Tindall, secretary to the District Commissioners, who on behalf of the commissioners of the city delivered the welcome address. Mr. Gaskins, who was acting as the chairman of the session, next introduced Judge Robert H. Terrell as the one colored man holding the highest judicial position in the United States. Judge Terrell made an appropriate address, speaking of the number of colored people in the District, showing how they were employed and in what walks of life they might be found, but, said he, "the crowning feature is the school system of Washington, which is unsurpassed by any in the world for colored people. We have over seventeen thousand children daily attending school and they are being taught by more than five hundred colored teachers, and the results are indeed gratifying."

The chairman next introduced Hon. Ralph W. Tyler, who caught the audience when he remarked that inasmuch as the Judge had used up all of the "welcomes" available he supposed it was up to him to welcome them on behalf of the officeholders of the District." Mr. Tyler's speech was well received, appropriate and to the point. He was followed by Rev. Wm. J. Howard on behalf of the churches. Prof. Bruce Evans, who spoke by way of proxy for Hon. W. T. Vernon, who was unable to be there, and was followed by the manager of the True Reformers' Hall on the behalf of fraternalities. Mr. Samuel Jones, District Deputy, was next introduced and made an earnest plea for harmony.

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ette especially provided for this occasion. Dr. James E. Mills, Grand Exalted Ruler of the Parent Body, was next introduced and he made his opening remarks decidedly clear by saying that they had come there with one avowed purpose, and that purpose was unity and that he felt sure that unification was assured. He said the Peace Conference met in Wilmington, Del., and pledged themselves to this end, and he was there for one to see that those pledges were ratified. He noted the fact that unless ratification was had there would be some trouble for both himself and Dr. Atkins. This was said good-naturedly and received in the same spirit.

Dr. Wm. E. Atkins, Grand Exalted Ruler of the other faction, was next introduced, and he pleaded that he had been ill on account of loss of rest, as he had to be conductor in a chartered train from Hampton, but that the words he had just heard uttered from the lips of Dr. Mills had entirely cured him, and that he felt better than at any time since he had left home. His speech was much along the same line of Dr. Mills, and he subscribed to any movement looking toward unification. Just before closing, while expressing himself as being not only desirous but anxious for this ratification, Dr. Mills arose and, walking to the center of the stage, extended his hand, which was warmly clasped by that of Dr. Atkins. This was indeed a dramatic scene and evoked round after round of applause for they had set the example for the lay delegates for unity and harmony. The Chairman then made a neat speech, in which he stated that whether they united or not in the Grand Lodge, they found an united lodge when they came here among the local Lodges, and they would leave one when they departed. The session closed with every one in good spirits and prepared for the parade, which is described elsewhere in the "Forum."

On Wednesday the two lodges met separately and agreed upon plans to be submitted for uniting the two bodies. The important committees were appointed and reported on Thursday. Most of Friday was given over to the social session by way of excursions, and other diversions. Taken in all, they made a lasting impression upon the people of Washington, and the hope is that they will decide to come again in the very near future.



DR. J. E. MILLS, of Norfolk, Va.

Grand Exalted Ruler of the Parent Body of I. B. P. O. E. of W. who presided over the deliberations of the body while the proposition of Unification was being considered.

praise was freely given. There never was a parade here by any body of men or women that was conducted with better grace. The most perfect order was observed and the affair was carried through with a dignity that won the hearty approval of all who beheld.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE NATIONAL FORUM AND LET IT FOLLOW YOU TO YOUR HOMES.

Homes for Colored PEOPLE AT GRANT PARK ON THE HILL In the District at 57th St., N. E., On the Columbia Electric Railway.

H St. cars go direct to the property—5c car fare—30 minutes from 15th St. and N. Y. Ave.

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The Poor Man's Chance To Enjoy A DEIRAPLE HOME SITE AT SMALL COST.

Grant Park Office, Room 314, O'Gray Building, N. W. Cor. 8th and G Streets, N. W.

## ATLANTIC CITY

The Loraine ball was indeed a success last Tuesday evening and acknowledged by all who have attended former balls in the uptown section to be the most genteel and refined ever had. Twenty-four waitresses in white gowns, with all the grace and dignity of Cleopatra, were the center of attraction of the evening.

The first prizes in the prize waltz were won by Mr. Johnnie Banks and Miss Alice Morgan, of Allentown, Pa., second by Mr. Alonza Wooten and Mrs. John Arrington. The cake was won by Miss Mabel Downing.

The most popular lady of the evening was Mrs. Mary Adams.

Miss Polly Moore, of Staunton, Va., is stopping at the Silvestra Cottage, 34 North Ohio avenue.

The past few days have been exceedingly hot here and Wall's new bathhouse is highly appreciated by the colored people at Atlantic City.

Miss Ella M. Coleman, the electionist, who has been visiting in Chicago, as returned to our city.

Meers, W. H. Casey and Thomas Jackson are delegates to the Elks Convention in Washington this week.

Miss Edna J. Smith's Land, N. J., spent Sunday in Ocean City.

The automobile industry is responsible for a scarcity of leather.

## Vote For Your Favorite Elk

The most popular Elk chosen by the votes of their friends and admirers will receive a Diamond Elk Charm. It is a beauty. The Charm will be displayed in the window of Mr. Callisher, the Jeweler, 917 Penna. Ave. N. W. Go and see it.

Cut out this coupon, fill it out and mail it to us. Vote early and often. Extra copies of the Forum for sale at 609 F St., N. W., Room 203, or you can order from your news stand.

The presentation will be made during the Elk Convention, July 26, 27, 28, 29. Ten thousand Elks will be in this city attending this Convention.

Address National Forum, 609 F St., N. W.

## COUPON

THE MOST POPULAR ELK  
I. B. P. O. E. O. W.

I cast this vote for

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

The most popular Elk will receive a Diamond Elk Charm.

## THE ELKS RECEPTION

We have been in attendance upon several and various functions held at the Convention Hall, but it can be said by us without fear of successful contradiction that at no time have we seen the decorations more perfectly blended, when considered from the viewpoint of both harmony and arrangement. Not the profuse and lavish intermingling of colors, which loses strength perforce of gaudy display, but that consistent detail of distribution that is inviting to the eye, as well as pleasing to the finer and more ethically inclined critics. Old Glory took precedence over all other colors along the line of multifarious bunting and flags. The background furnished by the evergreens made a beautiful contrast and was exhilarating in its effect upon those who were so gracefully tipping the light fantastic toe to the splendidly discoursed music by the Monumental Orchestra, under the able leadership of Prof. Charles Hamilton. The committee as a whole is to be congratulated upon a splendidly conducted affair that reflected credit, not only upon the Elks of the District of Columbia, but the Elks of the world, together with the race they represent. The entire absence of anything which was not strictly in line with the highest form of good decorum was one of the features that was significantly prominent and indeed a crowning virtue of the occasion. The ladies as a whole were beautifully gowned and presented themselves to a decided advantage. Many of them were the personification of grace, which challenged the admiration of the lookers-on. The young gallants rose to the occasion with becoming aptitude and departed themselves commensurate with the exigency of the evening.

The first gray blush of rosy-checked dawn was chasing the nocturnal shadows across the misty mountain tops of the great golden west where the light-hearted revelers began to take their departure from an evening's entertainment furnished by the local lodges, which goes down in the social history of Elkdom as one that is rarely ever equalled and never surpassed.

Mr. H. S. Berry, who had charge of the checking of the hats, saved much annoyance by his promptness and polite service.

Mr. R. N. Hyde, of Des Moines, Iowa, was a prominent visitor at the banquet. He is grand trustee of the order and a prominent business man in his own city.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blagburn were among the number of the home entertainers who aided materially in making it pleasant for the visiting Elks. They were in attendance upon the banquet with their several friends.

Hon. James N. Harrison, of Norfolk, Va., was much in evidence at the social session of the Elks. Mr. Harrison is practicing law in Norfolk and the record shows that he is succeeding. He is an alumnus of Howard.

The Huntington, W. Va., contingent turned out in full bloom and upheld the West Virginia lodge in great style.

One white officer who had been detailed to the Convention Hall made the following remark: "What we officers need here tonight is not an officer's uniform, but a spike-tailed coat." This was really a tribute to the splendid order maintained, though it may have been spoken in jest.

Col. C. P. Lancaster, Walter Brooks, T. E. Harris and J. H. Starkey, all popular gentlemen in their home city, Cleveland, Ohio, were here representing the Cleveland Elks' Lodge. They were in attendance upon the banquet.

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Mrs. S. C. Green and Mrs. Forsnaugh, representing the Cleve-Temple lodge, were conspicuous figures at the hall on last Tuesday evening.

Dr. C. C. Barnett, who enjoys a lucrative practice of medicine in Huntington, W. Va., was among the out-of-town visitors. The Doctor has many friends here and they were all glad to welcome him. He at one time lived here and is an alumnus of Howard University.

When it comes to class the Chicago, Pittsburgh, Rochester, Cleveland, Cincinnati and New York delegations were all worth playing for first place.

Mr. John T. Rhines, of the local fraternity, was ubiquitous at the evening's entertainment and did much to make it a success.

Sergeant J. Clay Smith made a fine appearance, both on his black steed in the parade and at the hall at night also.

Hon. Wm. Morris, one of Minneapolis' prominent members of the legal bar, was among the prominent visitors in town who joined forces with the funmakers.

Mr. E. W. Freeman made a most excellent floor manager and handled the difficulties he encountered with nicety and distinction.

Miss Iona Carrington and Miss Lenora Scott, of Norfolk, Va., were among the prominent visitors from the city by the sea.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

E. B. Howell, of New Haven, Conn., a delegate to the Elks' Convention, is stopping with his brother-in-law, Wm. E. L. Sanford, of Concord street. After spending a portion of his vacation here he will leave for Oxford, Pa.

Ebenezer M. E. Church, Fourth and D streets southeast, will give a grand elvish excursion August 11th to Somerset Beach